

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

14-82B

Orleans

EAS.1319

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Eastham Center

Photograph



Address: 723 Samoset Road Rear

Historic Name: Pilgrim Knoll/ Helen R. Clark House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1913

Source: Physical evidence on building

Style/Form: Craftsman/ Bungalow

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Piers, concrete block

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Garage, built ca. 1952-1971 (see Photo 2)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Screen porch enclosed (date unknown)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.80 acres

Setting: This property is located in the Ponds section of central Eastham. The large parcel extends north to Jemima Pond and south to Herring Pond, and is bordered on the west by conservation land. The surrounding area includes early-20th to early-21st century houses, most centered on their parcels. This cottage is located at the apex of the hill between the two ponds. The parcel is left open around the house.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Pilgrim Knoll is an intact example of a Craftsman-style Bungalow. Character-defining features include the 1½-story, side-gable form, the enclosed porch that spans the front (north) elevation, the centered shed-roofed dormer on both front and rear elevations, and the projecting roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. Portions of the rear (south) roof slope do not extend down as far as the north roof slope, creating the effect of a lean-to roof form.

The house rests on piers that are obscured by skirtboards. An addition on the rear (south) elevation rests on a concrete block foundation. It is possible that the rear elevation originally had a projecting centered entrance enclosure that was expanded on the east side thereby squaring the southeast corner of the house. The rear dormer may have been added at the time of this expansion. The elevations are clad in weathered wood shingles with plain cornerboards. Fenestration consists of individual and grouped wood, single-glazed, 6/1 double-hung sash set in flat surrounds with projecting sills. Narrow, red brick stove chimneys rise from both roof slopes. A ca. 1940 view of the cottage shows how the north-facing porch was originally open and screened (Photo 3).

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This house has an Assessor date of 1910, but there is no house in this location on the 1910 Barnstable County Atlas (Figure 2). Title research traces back to 1909, when Benjamin Clark conveyed all of his real estate in Eastham to his two sons, Edward C. and George Clark.¹ The deed reads more like a will, with multiple instructions for the two sons to financially support their three sisters and various grandchildren. The deed did not describe any of the real estate.

This cottage was built in 1913 for Edward and George's sister, Helen Rachel Clark (1857-1925). A wall plank exposed by the current owners revealed handwriting that says "Sept. 11, 1913." Helen lived her whole life in her parents' home at 755 Samoset Road (no longer extant), but they appear to have built this cottage so that Helen could have her own space, at least during the warmer months. Helen, the eldest daughter, never married. She was listed working in a factory at the age of 22 in the 1880 census, but the only other indication of work outside the home was the 1910 census, where her occupation was listed as housekeeper for a private family, but that description had then been crossed out.

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 297/ Page 320.

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As of the 1920 census, Edward and George were living with their sister, Helen, on Old Mulford Road (now Samoset Road) in Eastham. Edward (1854-1925) was listed as a truck farmer, George (b. 1847) was listed as a storekeeper for a general store, and Helen (1857-1936) worked for a private family. It is unclear if Old Mulford Road refers to this address. It appears that George predeceased his other two siblings. They lost some if not all of their Eastham properties to the town through a tax taking. In 1934, the Eastham Collector of Taxes held an auction and sold a 22-acre parcel that included this property, along with property in Thumpertown, and other parcels of meadow and woodland. It was all sold to Clarence R. Horton, Jr. of Lexington, MA for \$91.76.²

The Horton surname has deep roots in Eastham. Clarence, Jr.'s grandfather, Reuben H. Horton (1845-1925), was raised and lived in Eastham, working as a fisherman. Clarence, Jr.'s father was born in Eastham but raised his family in the greater Boston area. Clarence, Jr. (1889-1968) was born in Somerville and married Louise Gardner (1911-1987) in Indiana in 1939. He worked as a naval engineer, spending much of his career with the Dravo Corporation in Pittsburg, a shipbuilding company with shipyards in Pittsburg and Wilmington, DE, and he eventually rose to chief marine engineer. This house passed to their daughter, Virginia G. Horton, and in 1988 she recorded a subdivision of the land with this property identified as Lot 2 (Figure 3).³ She was living in NY, NY in 1990 when she sold Lots 2 and 3 to Maragaret H. Weiler of Belmont, MA.⁴

In 2010, Weiler was living in Bradford, NH when a trust she established sold half-interests in Lot 2 to Robert L. and Sarah P. K. Mumford of Eastham and a trust established by Gregory M. and Linda L. Korjeff of San Carlos, CA.⁵ The property remains in their families.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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United States Geological Survey. Aerial Survey 1938-2020,

<https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-cod-chronology-viewer/>.

www.ancestry.com - Vital records.

² Book 499/ Page 278.

³ Plan Book 458/ Page 70.

⁴ Book 7157/ Page 309.

⁵ Book 2420/ Page 186.

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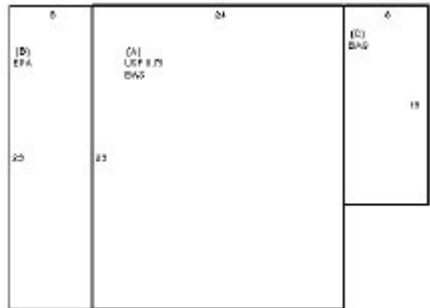


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. View looking northeast.



Photo 3. View looking southeast (ca. 1940 view, Mumford family collection).

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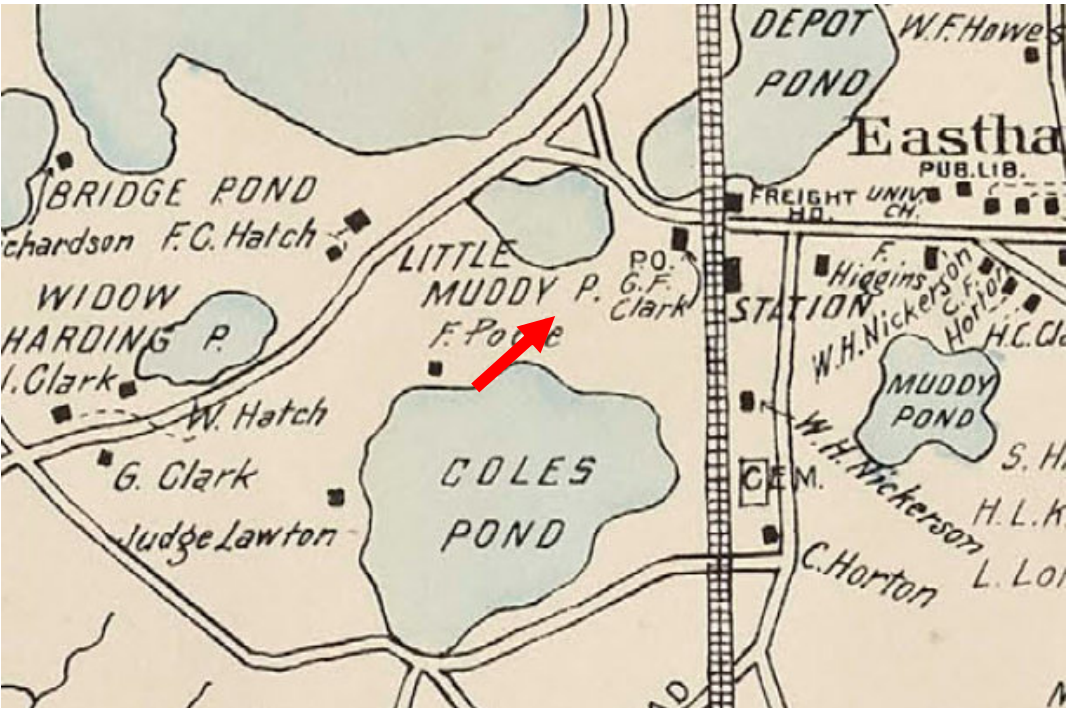


Figure 2. Detail of 1910 Barnstable County Atlas (arrow to future location of 723 Samoset Road Rear added).

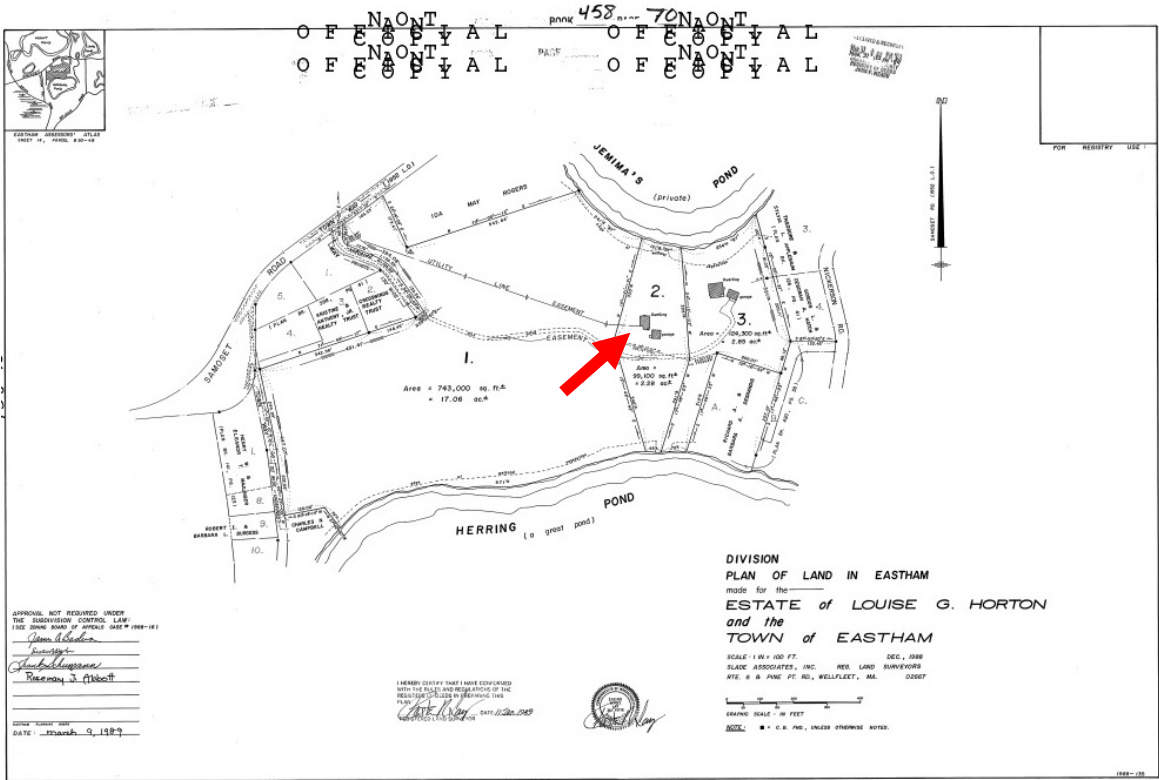


Figure 3. 1988 Division Plan of Land in Eastham for the Estate of Louise G. Horton, Plan Book 458/ Page 70 (arrow to house added).